THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The clone RRII 105 developed by Rubber Board yields on the average, 300 to 500 kg more per ha/year as compared to any other high yielding clone available. Another clone with a yield potential of 20% more than that of RRII 105 is being developed by RRII. This has already been introduced in some fields as an experimental clone.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. RRII is planning to strengthen the research stations in West Bengal, Orissa, M.P., Maharashtra and Kannur in Kerala, research in Biotechnology and tissue culture during the 9th Five Year Plan. An increased outlay has been proposed for research during this Plan.

Annual expenditure incurred on research during the last three years has been as under :-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1993-94 | : | Rs. 606.04 Lakhs |
| 1994-95 | : | Rs. 501.79 Lakhs |
| 1995-96 | : | Rs. 662.01 Lakhs |

(e) and (f). The existing Flexible Complementing Scheme being operated by the Deptt. of Science and Technology for scientists of ICAR/CSIR is under review by the Fifth Central Pay Commission. The proposal for extension of FCS to the scientists of Commodity Boards will be considered only after the report of the Pay Commission is received.

**Export Growth**

*43. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the performance of export growth in most of the sectors has been satisfactory during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and the names of those sectors which showed negative growth rate during the current year in comparison to the last two years;

(c) whether the Government propose to moot diversification of export basket in the wake of decline in export growth rate;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial action the Government have taken to revive the Indian exports to its desired level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). According to aggregate level trade data from DGCI & S India's exports during April-September, 1996-97 stood at US $ 16.14 billion representing a growth of 9.9% over the level of US $ 14.68 billion achieved during April-September, 1995-96.

As per the April-August, 1996 data (available for sectoral performance) the sectors which have shown negative growth are Leather and manufactures, Gems and Jewellery, Handicrafts and Carpets. The data in respect of these sectors as is required in part (b) of the question is given in the enclosed statement. Reasons for slow growth in exports/negative growth could be ascribed to factors such as relatively less buoyant international market conditions, infrastructural bottlenecks, high cost of export credit etc.

(c) and (d). Under the Exim Policy framework all items can be freely exported except some specified items borne on the negative list of exports.

(e) Export promotion is a continuous activity; the measures taken for export promotion include simplification of export and import policy and procedures, improving efficiency and competitiveness and de-bottlenecking of export infrastructure, inter action with Exporting Community to identify and address exporters' problems, promoting joint ventures and bilateral trade with other countries.

**STATEMENT**

US $ Million
(% change)

| Commodities | 1994-95 | 1995-96 | April-August 1995-96 | April-August 1996-97 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Leather manufactures | 1610.63 | 1722.75 | 722.44 | 649.61 |
| | (23.9) | (7.0) | | (-10.1) |
| Gems & Jewellery | 4500.37 | 5275.44 | 1974.70 | 1830.16 |
| | (12.6) | (17.2) | | (-7.3) |
| Handicrafts | 386.32 | 431.44 | 198.61 | 193.63 |
| | (21.3) | (11.7) | | (-2.5) |
| Carpets | 559.96 | 558.19 | 240.97 | 227.77 |
| | (-1.5) | (-0.3) | | (-5.5) |

Figures in bracket represents the growth rate.